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Identical letters dated 6 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 29 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations concerning alleged Iraqi violations of Saudi Arabia's land boundaries (S/2001/547), I should like to inform you that the Saudi letter consists of pure fabrication and to convey to you hereunder the actual facts of the situation.

1. The Saudi letter claims that on 23 May 2001 an Iraqi patrol entered Saudi territory and fired on personnel of the Saudi Frontier Force, that a number of Saudi soldiers were wounded and that an Iraqi soldier was also wounded and later died. This assertion is untrue. What actually happened was that on 24 May 2001 the Iraqi soldier Taqi Abd al-Amir was walking with a colleague near the boundary pillar when elements of the Saudi Frontier Force ambushed them and opened fire on them. Private Taqi Abd al-Amir was hit in the leg and lightly wounded, and the Saudi troops took him into Saudi territory. They later announced that he had died, although his wound had been slight, when they should have informed the International Committee of the Red Cross of his situation and endeavoured to save his life.

2. The Saudi letter claims that there were 10 cases of violations by Iraq in the period from 19 March to 21 April 2001. After checking, the Iraqi Border Guard Force affirmed that the assertions made in the Saudi letter are untrue, and it has not been established that any of the violations alleged by the Saudi authorities actually took place.

3. On the other hand, at 1855 hours on 25 March 2000 a Saudi patrol consisting of three vehicles fired 10 rounds from inside Saudi territory at an Iraqi border observation post, and Iraq informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States of this violation at the time it occurred.

4. The Saudi letter states that the alleged cases of gunfire represent "flagrant violations of resolutions that have the force of international law and of international conventions and covenants". At the same time, it seeks to ignore the fact that the real breach of international law and of international conventions and covenants is being committed by the Saudi authorities on a daily basis when they shelter, fund and provide bases and logistic support for the United States warplanes that, together with all the other United States and British warplanes stationed in Kuwait and in the Arabian Gulf, engage in constant aggression against Iraq with 10 to 20 attacks a day

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in which they bomb Iraqi civilian installations and economic infrastructure and destroy crops and livestock. In these attacks, 416 Iraqi citizens have been killed and more than 1,000 have been wounded. The policy of double standards being pursued by the Saudi authorities in accordance with American logic is no longer concealed from anyone, and the facts concerning the identity of the aggressor and the victim of aggression have become clear to one and all.

5. The timing of the submission of the Saudi letter and the timing of the circulation to the media of the vanities it contains expose the hostile intentions of the Saudi authorities, and thus also of the United States of America and the United Kingdom, as well as their premeditated intention to create a false impression that there is a tense situation on the Iraq-Saudi Arabia border so as to facilitate acceptance of the United States and British scheme to strengthen the embargo imposed on Iraq on the pretext of so-called smart sanctions and in order to create excuses for continued aggression against the country.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative